

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



January 23, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval to Attend a Reception Sponsored by the Louisiana Economic Development Organization of Louisiana State University

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a reception sponsored by the Louisiana Economic Development Organization (LED) of Louisiana State University, to be held in conjunction with NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate's Quarterly Program Management Review. The reception will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, at 555 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. LED is solely responsible for all management and expense of the reception and has indicated that gifts will not be provided for attendees.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of local, state, and Congressional representatives, as well as industry representatives from Louisiana and elsewhere. The reception is valued at \$20 per person and over 300 people are expected to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA's profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees who feel that their duties may substantially affect the

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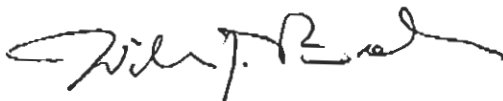
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Louisiana Economic Development Organization's membership are not covered in this determination and should seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding their participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Bierbower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William J. Bierbower
Chief Counsel